

**DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, September 11, 2006**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wichita, Kansas 67214**

**Members Present**

Council Member Carl Brewer  
Treatha Brown-Foster  
Gerald Domitrovic  
Debra K. Miller Stevens  
Janice Rich\*  
Steve Roberts  
Inga Taylor  
James Thompson  
Shontina Tipton  
LaVonta Williams

**Members Absent**

Shane Dundas

**Guests**

Ruth E. Cannon, 1901 Piatt  
Beverly Domitrovic, 1219 George Washington  
Evelyn Smith, 2617 N. Erie  
Mr. & Mrs. Noble, 3107 Carmen  
Joann Hartig, 1756 S. Main

**\*Alternates**

**City of Wichita Staff Present**

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant  
Bill Stevens, WPD

**Order of Business**

**Call to Order**

**Council Member Carl Brewer** called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and welcomed the guests. .

**Approval of Minutes**

**Roberts** commented that he did not make the motion to adjourn last meeting, as he was not present.

**Thompson** stated that he was not listed as present. **Roberts (Thompson)** made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried 8-0.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Council Member Brewer** welcomed the guest and thanked everyone for coming. He stated that in recognition of the day being September 11<sup>th</sup> that the Pledge of Allegiance would be cited. Everyone stood and cited the pledge. **Roberts (Miller)** made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 8-0.

**Council Member Brewer** then rearranged the order of the agenda as follows.

**Public Agenda**

**1. NUSA Update**

**Joann Hartig and LaVonta Williams, Wichita Independent Neighborhoods**, provided an update on the NUSA Conference. **Williams** thanked the City of Wichita for sponsorship to the NUSA Conference and reported that 10 to 12 people attended. At the conference was discussed the possibility of losing CDBG funds that would negatively affect programs such as, the TRIO Program, Gear-Up Program, and Title 1 grants for low socio-economic students. Williams also commented on the awards presented for neighborhood initiatives and stated that Wichita should

submit the SAV-A-Lot store and the downtown development for an award. Her favorite presentation was the Council of Elders, which is similar to ours. When juvenile youth get in trouble, they are turned over to the Council of Elders instead of jail. The youth perform community service and they have only lost one student.

**Joann Hartig** reported that she was impressed with information presented on problem properties. Oklahoma City has a program that paid neighborhoods to clean up area lots and place trash on the curbs and the city picks up the trash. They use the criminal abatement program to eliminate blithe.

**Janice Rich** reported that she was disappointed in the workshop on How to Start a Neighborhood Association. She was pleased with the crime prevention through code enforcement and the criminal abatement program.

**Roberts (Miller)** made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 8-0.

## **2. Police Report**

**Officer Kimble** reported: 1) on Beat 47, the Ken Mar Shopping Center has issues of congregating in the parking lot and had one shooting that recently occurred on that property. Officer Gerdes is working with the owners to close the lot on Fridays and Saturdays by chaining it off. Hopefully this will be done by the 15<sup>th</sup>; 2) Club Vision is now the Zodiac Club. Owners want to operate the establishment as a nightclub with liquor and dancing. They were shut down this past weekend for violations; 3) there was a homicide at 2640 North Grove. There are currently no suspects; 4) Beat 44 results are out and have been provided to the neighborhoods in a flyer. Officer Pierce will host neighborhood forums to discuss the results. She has now taken a position with the offender re-entry program; 5) and the Rolling Stones concert will affect parking. 21<sup>st</sup> Street will be closed from Hillside to Oliver on 21<sup>st</sup> street. Semi trailers will be parked along 21<sup>st</sup> street. 29<sup>th</sup> Street from Oliver to Woodlawn will be closed to thru traffic and Oliver, 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed to thru traffic. Citizens will be allowed in and out of their homes. There will be plenty officers assigned to traffic duty and the concert itself. Additional parking will be available at the WSU Metroplex and Jackson Elementary.

*(Officer Kimble's response is in italics)*

**Brown Foster** asked if they have secured enough parking so that parking issues do not overflow into the neighborhood and inquired about the increase in gang activity? *Officer Kimble responded that north of 21<sup>st</sup> Street - Hillside to Oliver – is the main concern. However, parking issues have been addressed. It is hard to keep a handle on gang issues constantly. WPD has 2500 documented gang members in Wichita.* **Tipton** commented that there has been a lot of crime in the last 18 days. She asked if there are any stats as to why? *When kids get out of school, crime increases. The same is true at the beginning of school.* **Bonita Gooch, PCV Publishing**, inquired if the operators of the new club on 13<sup>th</sup> Street are the same? *Yes.* **Williams** stated that Officer Gerdes is working with the owners.

**Officer Bill Stevens, 23 Beat**, reported: 1) that he has been in the Community Policing unit for three years. He has seen an increase in residential burglaries and burglaries to sheds. He is working with the community to solve the crimes; 2) there are three new Neighborhood Watches in this area; 3) 800 South Broadway has a problem hotel with lots of prostitution. They are looking at enforcement in regards to prostitution; 4) 1300 Market has seen an increased enforcement in that

area. Property owners are not being cooperative. There may be a neighborhood association in that area; 5) **25 Beat** has a club, **Max's**, that has increased gang activity. They are working with the property owners of the club on parking issues due to a school in close proximity; 6) skate park activity has decreased due to school starting; 7) the camping ordinance is going to the City Council in the next month to address the Anti-Camping Ordinance to eliminate chronic homelessness. There is currently a problem with camping under bridges.

**Brown Foster (Roberts)** made a motion to receive and file. Motion carried 8-0.

**3. District 1 Neighborhood Award**

**Council Member Brewer** stated that he appreciates the officers and what they are doing for the City of Wichita. The Ken Mar incident is not allowed to die in the media. Similar things are happening throughout the entire city, but our neighborhoods seem to be the incidents the media captures. There are a lot of good things going on that we can be proud of. He commented that when we start thinking about pride in our community, we look at pride in our housing stock. In recognition of those citizens who make us proud, we now honor homeowners who are doing great things. He then presented Neighborhood Pride Awards to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Noble, Mrs. Ruth Edna Cannon, and Mr. & Mrs. Payne.

**4. Off Agenda Items**

No items submitted.

**New Business**

**Staff Reports**

**5. Rodeo**

**Kurt Schroeder, OCI**, reported that rodeo regulation presentations were made to DABs I and VI on August 7, 2006. Each of those DABs recommended that the City draft regulations to allow indoor rodeos only, with the suggested new UZC and licensing regulation. At the City Council meeting on August 15, 2006, the feedback proceed by DABs I and VI was presented, and City Council directed staff to develop regulations to allow for indoor rodeos only, and to present a summary of proposed indoor rodeo regulations to DABs.

Mr. Schroeder further stated that the biggest issue is the zoning amendment, which would restrict rodeos to "GC" General Commercial zoning, and "LI" & "GI" industrial zoning districts. Also, animal maintenance, treatment, and storage are additional areas of concern. Added is an exception for licensing of rodeos conducted on property owned and controlled by the City of Wichita or Sedgwick County. The events would not be held for more than two days at any given time of the year and would go through the Community Events process.

*(Mr. Schroeder's response is in italics)*

**Miller Stevens** asked a series of questions regarding indoor rodeos on Kellogg, if permanent licensing is required for these special events, and if there is a ban on rodeos in the county? *These events would require a special events license. Our health department is reviewing quite of bit of this information to ensure compliance. There are no bans on rodeos in the county.* **Domitrovic** asked if the Mexican rodeo was on a private lot and would this amendment stop their rodeo? He also asked if exceptions to the amendments could be request? *This rodeo was held on less than*

*two acres of land. The proposed change is for five acres of land. This amendment would prevent the rodeo unless an indoor facility is built. Under the new amendments, exceptions will not be*

*granted. Bonita Gooch, PCV Publishing, asked why the City no longer wants outdoor rodeos? The neighborhoods have drove the complaint, because of the noise associated with outdoor rodeos. The City realized that there are no regulations in place to address rodeos and are now rectifying this.*

**Council Member Brewer** stated that he needed to turn the meeting over to the 1<sup>st</sup> Pro-Tem **Domitrovic** to preside. He needed to leave for a personal matter and will report on the Wisconsin trip at the next breakfast. Council Member Brewer exited at 8:07 p.m.

#### **6. Waterman Improvements, Main to Washington**

**Gary Janzen, Public Works**, presented a design concept for street improvements from Main to Washington. He stated that due to the improvements from Emporia and Waterman to the River, the storm sewer must be extended to accommodate new business developments. The Water and Sewer Department has reviewed ways to make needed improvements. The DAB meeting was attended in June to present the project and to receive feedback on recommended options. Currently, Waterman has four lanes and narrow sidewalks. It was unanimous at all DABs that the sidewalks are widening as well as the streets. Now is the final stage of the Waterwalk Development and they hope to begin construction this fall. The proposed enhancements are: a new storm water sewer system and a 48" waterline, aesthetic enhancements that include brick pavers on Broadway and Emporia, pedestrian level lighting from Topeka on, trash receptacles, raised planters and trees, and decorative benches. The planters are very expensive and will be bid as an option.

*(Mr. Janzen's response is in italics)*

**Brown Foster** inquired about the use of bricks and the problem with brick pavers. Brick streets have been replaced with concrete along 9<sup>th</sup> Street. *I have heard the opposite concerning bricks. We have intersections all over town and our studies indicate that bricks provide a better surface than smooth concrete.* **Taylor** asked what would be done with the new pavers so that they don't fade like the existing pavers. *The plan is to not use the same type of pavers, as they do not hold color. Will use brick pavers similar to the ones located near Warren Theatre.* **Williams** asked about the cost of the whole program. *The estimated cost for City and County is \$6 million. It is actually cheaper for the City to do the project now while savings can be incurred. The City Council will make the final decision on how much to spend.*

**Williams (Thompson)** made a motion to approve the recommended design concept and aesthetic enhancements. Motion carried 7-1 (**Brown Foster** opposed).

#### **Unfinished Business**

**No items submitted.**

#### **Board Agenda**

#### **7. Updates, Issues, and Reports**

- **Miller Stevens** reported that Schweiter East Neighborhood Association's Annual Potluck Picnic would be held September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Also, Schweiter Park funds are at work

thanks to Council Member Brewer. They are receiving a new tennis courts, basketball courts, a shelter, and walking path. She invited everyone to come and help them

celebrate. Lastly, she invited everyone to enjoy a cupcake and bottled water after the meeting in celebration of her birthday.

- **Brown Foster** addressed residential concern that the Maya Angelou Library charges for public use of meeting spaces and asked staff to check into the matter.
- **Domitrovic** inquired if the board was aware of a letter from Clara Perry. A copy of the letter was provided to the board for review.
- **Rich** announced that the Kellogg Neighborhood Association has folded and a new association will meet on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Spice Merchant.
- **Gilkey** announced the Community Unity Day, Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>; 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. She asked for the board to assist with recruiting volunteers for the event.

**The board received and filed.**

With no further business, **Brown Foster (Roberts)** recommended adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Virdena Gilkey  
Neighborhood Assistant